

What is Claimed is:

1. In a process for producing L-amino acids by the fermentation of bacteria of the coryneform genus, the improvement comprising enhancing the activity of malate:quinone oxidoreductase in said bacteria.

5 2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein said activity of malate:quinone oxidoreductase is enhanced by over-expressing the gene encoding this enzyme.

10 3. The improvement of claim 1, wherein said coryneform bacteria have been treated to enhance the activity of one or more additional enzymes of a synthetic pathway for an L-amino acid.

15 4. The improvement of claim 1, wherein said coryneform bacteria have been treated to eliminate one or more metabolic pathways that reduce the formation of an L-amino acid.

20 5. The improvement of any one of claims 1-4, wherein wherein said activity of malate:quinone oxidoreductase is enhanced by transforming said coryneform bacteria with a plasmid vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for said malate:quinone oxidoreductase.

25 6. The improvement according to claim 5, wherein said plasmid vector is pRM17 deposited in *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, under accession number DSM12711.

7. The improvement of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said process is for the production of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of: L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine and L-methionine.

30 8. The improvement of claim 7, wherein said process is for the production of L-lysine.

9. The improvement of claim 7, wherein the gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase is over-expressed in said bacteria.
10. The improvement of claim 7, wherein a DNA fragment mediating S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine resistance is amplified in said bacteria.
11. A process for producing an L-amino acid by the fermentation of bacteria of the coryneform genus comprising:
 - a) amplifying the malate:quinone oxidoreductase gene in a bacteria producing said L-amino acid;
 - b) fermenting the bacteria produced in step a);
 - c) isolating said L-amino acid made in the fermentation of step b).
12. The process of claim 11, further comprising treating said bacteria to enhance the activity of one or more additional genes of a synthetic pathway for an L-amino acid.
13. The process improvement of claim 11, wherein said bacteria are transformed with plasmid vector pRM17, deposited in *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, under accession number DSM12711.
14. The process claim 11, wherein said process is for the production of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of: L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine and L-methionine.
15. The process of claim 14, wherein said process is for the production of L-lysine.